

Appln No. 09/575,174
Amdr. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

4

COPY**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A region defined in relation to a surface, coded data and additional data being disposed within the region, wherein the coded data comprises machine-readable data which is substantially inscrutable to the average unaided human and is indicative of:
 - a region identity associated with the region; and
 - a plurality of points within the region,
 - wherein the additional data is human-readable data which is substantially visible to the average unaided human eye;
 - ~~the coded data and the additional data having been disposed on the surface substantially simultaneously.~~ at least some of the additional data being indicative of an interactive element.
 - at least some of the coded data in the vicinity of the at least some additional data also being indicative of the interactive element.
2. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 1, wherein the coded data includes at least one tag, each tag being indicative of the region identity and the position of the tag within the region.
3. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 2, wherein each of the tags includes:
 - first identity data defining a relative position of that tag; and
 - second identity data identifying the surface.
4. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, including further tags that do not include both first identity data and second identity data.
5. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein the relative position is defined in relation to the surface.

COPY

Appn No. 09/575,174
Amdt. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

5

6. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein the relative position is defined in relation to a plurality of the other tags.
7. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein the first identity data identifies stored information defining the relative position, the stored information not being stored on the surface.
8. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein the first identity data and the second identity data together identify stored information defining the relative position.
9. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein the surface is defined by a substrate.
10. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 9, wherein the substrate is laminar.
11. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein the tags are disposed at predetermined positions on the surface.
12. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 11, wherein the tags are disposed on the surface within a tessellated pattern comprising a plurality of tiles, each of the tiles containing a plurality of the tags.
13. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 12, wherein the tiles interlock with each other to substantially cover the surface.
14. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 13, wherein the tiles are all of a similar shape.
15. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 14, wherein the tiles are triangular, square, rectangular or hexagonal.
16. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 12, wherein the tags are

COPY

Appln No. 09/575,174
Amdt. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

6

disposed stochastically within each of the tiles.

17. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 16, wherein the first identity data of each of the tags includes index data indicating the tile within which the tag is disposed and position data indicating the tag's position within that tile.
18. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein each of the tags includes at least one common feature in addition to the second identity data.
19. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 18, wherein the at least one common feature is configured to assist finding and/or recognition of the tags by associated tag reading apparatus.
20. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 18, wherein the at least one common feature is represented in a data format incorporating redundancy of information.
21. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 20, wherein the at least one common feature is rotationally symmetric so as to be rotationally invariant.
22. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 20, wherein the at least one common feature is ring-shaped.
23. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein each of the tags includes at least one orientation feature for enabling a rotational orientation of the tag being read to be ascertained.
24. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 23, wherein the at least one orientation feature is represented in a format incorporating redundancy of information.
25. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 24, wherein the at least one orientation feature is rotationally asymmetric.
26. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 24, wherein the at least one orientation feature is skewed along its major axis.

COPY

Appln No. 09/575,174
Amtd. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

7

27. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein each of the tags includes at least one perspective feature for enabling a perspective distortion of the tag being read to be ascertained.
28. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 27, wherein the at least one perspective feature includes at least four sub-features which are not coincident.
29. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein each tag includes a plurality of tag elements, the first and second identity data each being defined by a plurality of the elements.
30. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 29, wherein the tag elements are disposed in one or more arcuate bands around a central region of each tag.
31. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 30, wherein there are a plurality of the arcuate bands disposed concentrically with respect to each other.
32. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 31, wherein each element takes the form of a dot having a plurality of possible values.
33. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 32, wherein the number of possible values is two.
34. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 32, wherein when representing one of the possible values, the tag elements absorb, reflect or fluoresce electromagnetic radiation of a predetermined wavelength or range of wavelengths to a predetermined greater or lesser extent than the surface.
35. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 32, wherein the possible values of the tag elements are defined by different relative absorption, reflection or fluorescence of electromagnetic radiation of a predetermined wavelength or range of wavelengths.

COPY

Appln No. 09/575,174
Amdt. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

8

36. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 32, wherein the tags are not substantially visible to an average unaided human eye under daylight or ambient lighting conditions.
37. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 32, wherein the tags are slightly visible to an average unaided human eye under daylight or ambient lighting conditions.
38. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 32, wherein the tags are visible to an average unaided human eye under daylight or ambient lighting conditions.
39. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein the first identity data is represented in a format incorporating redundancy of information.
40. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 3, wherein the second identity data is represented in a format incorporating redundancy of information.
41. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 1, wherein the coded data has been disposed on the surface by a printer.
42. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 41, wherein the printer is an ink printer.
43. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 42, wherein the coded data has been printed using ink that is absorbent or reflective in the ultraviolet spectrum or the infrared spectrum.
44. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 41, wherein the additional information has been disposed on the surface by the printer.
45. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 44, wherein the additional information has been printed onto the surface using colored or monochrome inks.
46. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 45, wherein the additional

COPY

Appl No. 09/575,174
Amdt. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

9

information has been printed onto the surface using one of the following combinations of colored inks:

CMY;
CMYK;
CMYRGB; and
spot color.

47. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 2, wherein at least a plurality of the tags are disposed stochastically upon the surface.
48. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 47, wherein the first identity data of each of the tags includes position data indicating the tag's position in relation to either the surface or a plurality of the other tags.
49. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 48, wherein the tags are disposed in a regular array on the surface.
50. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 49, wherein the array is triangular.
51. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 50, wherein the tags are tiled over the surface
52. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 49, wherein the array is rectangular.
53. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 52, wherein the tags are tiled over the surface.
54. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 2, further including additional non-tag information disposed on the surface
55. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 1, wherein the region is identified with sufficient precision to distinguish the region from 1.5×10^{14} other regions.

COPY

Appln No. 09/575,174
Amdt. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

10

56. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 1, wherein any 10 millimetre diameter subregion of the region includes sufficient coded data to identify the region.
57. (Previously presented) The region according to claim 56, wherein any 10 millimetre diameter subregion of the region includes sufficient information to identify at least one point of the region.
58. (Previously presented) The region, including a region according to any one of the preceding claims.
59. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a surface having a region, the method including the steps of:
- (a) defining coded data, the coded data being indicative of:
 - a region identity associated with the region; and
 - a plurality of points within the region;
 - (b) disposing the coded data within a region on the surface; and
 - (c) disposing additional information on the surface,
- wherein the additional data comprises human-readable data which is substantially visible to the average unaided human eye, at least some of the additional data being indicative of an interactive element,
- and wherein the coded data comprises machine-readable data which is substantially inscrutable to the average unaided human, at least some of the coded data in the vicinity of the at least some additional data also being indicative of the interactive element.
- ~~wherein the additional data comprises human-readable data which is substantially visible to the average unaided human eye,~~
- ~~and wherein the steps of disposing the coded data and disposing the additional information are performed substantially simultaneously.~~
60. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 59, wherein the coded data includes at least one tag, each tag being indicative of the region identity and the position of the tag within the region.
61. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 60, wherein each of the tags

Appln No. 09/575,174
Amdt. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

11

includes:

first identity data defining a relative position of that tag; and
second identity data identifying the surface.

62. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 61, wherein the respective first identity data associated with each tag defines the position of that tag with respect to the surface.

63. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 61, wherein the respective first identity data associated with each tag defines a position of that tag with respect to one or more other tags.

64. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 59, including the step of providing a substrate upon which the surface is defined, the step being performed at any suitable time in relation to the other steps of the method.

65. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 60, wherein step (b) includes the sub-step (b)(i) of disposing the tags at predetermined positions on the surface.

66. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 65, wherein sub-step (b)(i) includes the step of disposing the tags in a regular array on the surface.

67. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 65, wherein sub-step (b)(i) includes the step of disposing the tags in a rectangular array on the surface.

68. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 66, wherein the step of disposing the tags on the surface includes the sub-step of tiling the tags over the surface.

69. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 60, further including the step of adding a common feature to the tags in addition to the second identity data.

70. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 69, wherein the common feature is configured to assist location and/or recognition of the tags by associated tag reading apparatus.

COPY

Appl. No. 09/575,174
Amdt. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

12

71. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 69, wherein the common features are represented in a format incorporating redundancy of information.
72. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 60, further including the step of providing each of the tags with one or more orientation features for enabling an orientation of the tag being read to be ascertained.
73. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 72, wherein the orientation features are represented in a format incorporating redundancy of information.
74. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 73, wherein each tag includes a plurality of tag elements, the first and second identity data being defined by a plurality of the elements.
75. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 74, wherein the tag elements are disposed in one or more arcuate bands around a central region of each tag.
76. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 75, wherein there are a plurality of the arcuate bands disposed concentrically with respect to each other.
77. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 76, wherein each element takes the form of a dot having a plurality of possible values.
78. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 77, wherein the number of possible values is two.
79. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 77, wherein when representing one of the possible values, the tag elements absorb, reflect or fluoresce electromagnetic radiation of a predetermined wavelength or range of wavelengths to a predetermined greater or lesser extent than the surface.
80. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 77, wherein the possible values of the tag elements are defined by different relative absorption, reflection or

COPY

Appln No. 09/575,174
Amdt. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

13

fluorescence of electromagnetic radiation of a predetermined wavelength or range of wavelengths.

81. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 77, wherein the tags are not substantially visible to an average unaided human eye under daylight or ambient lighting conditions.
82. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 77, wherein the tags are slightly visible to an average unaided human eye under daylight or ambient lighting conditions.
83. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 77, wherein the tags are visible to an average unaided human eye under daylight or ambient lighting conditions.
84. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 61, wherein the first identity data is represented in a format incorporating redundancy of information.
85. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 61, wherein the second identity data is represented in a format incorporating redundancy of information.
86. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 59, wherein the step of disposing the coded data within the region on the surface is achieved by a printer.
87. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 86, wherein the printer is an ink printer.
88. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 87, wherein the tags are printed using ink that is absorbent or reflective in the ultraviolet spectrum or the infrared spectrum.
89. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 86, wherein the step of disposing the additional information within the region on the surface is achieved by the printer.

COPY

Appln No. 09/575,174
Amdt. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

14

90. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 89, wherein the additional information is printed onto the surface using colored or monochrome inks.
91. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 90, wherein the additional information is printed onto the surface using one of the following combinations of colored inks:
- CMY;
 - CMYK;
 - CMYRGB; and
 - spot color.
92. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 60, wherein at least a plurality of the tags are disposed stochastically upon the surface.
93. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 92, wherein the first identity data of each of the tags includes position data indicating the tag's position in relation to either the surface or a plurality of the other tags.
94. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 93, wherein the tags are disposed in a regular array on the surface.
95. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 94, wherein the array is triangular.
96. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 95, wherein the tags are tiled over the surface
97. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 94, wherein the array is rectangular.
98. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 97, wherein the tags are tiled over the surface.
99. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 60, further including

COPY

Appln No. 09/575,174
Amdt. Dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

15

additional non-tag information disposed on the surface

100. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 59, wherein the region is identified with sufficient precision to distinguish the region from 1.5×10^{14} other regions.
101. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 59, wherein any 10 millimetre diameter subregion of the region includes sufficient coded data to identify the region.
102. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 101, wherein any 10 millimetre diameter subregion of the region includes sufficient information to identify at least one point of the region.
103. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein step (b) includes the sub-step of disposing the readable tags on the surface such that the relative spacing of their centres is less than about 12mm.
104. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 103, wherein the relative spacing is less than about 3mm.
105. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 103, wherein the relative spacing is less than about 1mm.
- 106-107 (Cancelled)
108. (New) The region according to claim 1 wherein the interactive element is selected from the group comprising a hyperlink, a hypertext link, a button, a command, a drawing field, a text field and a signature field.
109. (New) The method according to claim 59 wherein the interactive element is selected from the group comprising a hyperlink, a hypertext link, a button, a command, a drawing field, a text field and a signature field.